

**Michael Seale**

Meet TJC's new police chief

Dia de los Muertos

HSO to host celebration

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COURTESY: TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE
The 2018 Apache Chiefs

Apache Chiefs win Warrior Spirit Award

Sydni Cunningham
Digital Content Producer

Every school has its own set of traditions that make it unique. Tyler Junior College is no different with their own special set of traditions for homecoming week. TJC has added a new tradition to their list that has been gaining popularity in the recent years: the Warrior Spirit Award.

"Before all of these contests existed, there was no overall point, to be perfectly honest. So, we wanted to have it come together to have something to provide an incentive for organizations to get involved overall," Lauren Tyler, Director of Student Life, said.

According to Tyler, the award was first started in 2012 and was supposed to be a way to get student organizations more involved in Homecoming. Since the award had started being offered, only three organizations have won: the Black Student Association won the award the first five times. Last year, the Dental Studies Student Association won the award. It was their first year as a recognized organization on campus. This year's award winner is the Apache Chiefs.

The Apache Chiefs are an organization of students dedicated to serving others. They spend most of their time planning the New Student Orientation that is held in the summers before every new fall semester.

"The Chiefs do have a lot of traditions and school spirit and pride in what they do. We are trying to make sure that they are internally focused on servicing others and servicing this community but also the Tyler area. We really pride ourselves in delivering a great product; New Student Orientation for those incoming students and their families. We want to make sure they have the things that they need to be successful during that transition," said Murphy Turner, New Student Orientation Coordinator.

This is the 10th year that the Apache Chiefs have been a student organization. They first started in 2008 under Ashley Lewis. According to Tyler, "there have been orientation leaders before, but it has never been an organized student organization."

The Chiefs changed leadership in Fall 2011, and the summer of 2012 was the first summer there were the Tribal Games. Tribal Games is a special competition for new students during orientation. The students are divided into two groups that compete in various activities to gain bragging rights as the ultimate tribe.

"It sort of transitioned from being a staff ran orientation to a more student-led orientation, which I think was a huge plus. A lot more student life activities and traditions were

— see CHIEFS page 4 —

What is SSFAC?

Student Service Fee Advisory Committee distributes money to campus organizations

Maya Gayler
Managing Editor

The Student Service Fee Advisory Committee, or SSFAC, is the committee that decides the amount of funds campus organizations receive. This committee consists of students and faculty. The Student Senate president and one other senate member is on the board. Freshmen also serve on the board, especially if they are interested in Student Senate.

"I usually pull from Ya-A-Te, because they're student leaders," said Student Life Director Lauren Tyler. Tyler also asks for recommendations from other organizations because they understand involvement and leadership.

"All students pay \$2 per [registered] hour, and that money is then allocated to the organizations," said Tyler. From there, organizations turn in proposals of how much money they need for the semester. TJC students pay that fee in their tuition so that they can have organizations with a budget and membership. Some organizations still require a membership fee, and others give students money for joining. The hope is that these funds will be used to put on events for all students, using their money for them. "I wish people would come ask for more event money, so we help do more events on campus that all students could attend," said Tyler.

There are three tiers which organizations are divided into, tier one being the lowest and three being the highest. Tier one may receive up to \$10,000 a year, tier two \$20,000 and tier three \$30,000.

"Some organizations ask for \$50-60,000 a year, and that would take a large portion," said Tyler.

The SSFAC board also looks at past data of how much that organization was getting, this plays into the budget decision.

The proposals that organizations submit summarize what they need the funds for. They are asked to list the primary needs first and the amount. If it is listed first then that organization may only get funds for that need. Just because more than one need is listed does not mean they will always get the funds they asked for.

"It sounds like a lot of money, but when you start nickle and diming it, it goes really quickly," said Tyler.

Everybody wants the full amount they ask for, but that becomes unrealistic. Organizations have to prioritize what they really need and want to do for the semester. This fall, the budget was mainly given to travel and operational. This caused tighter fall budgets.

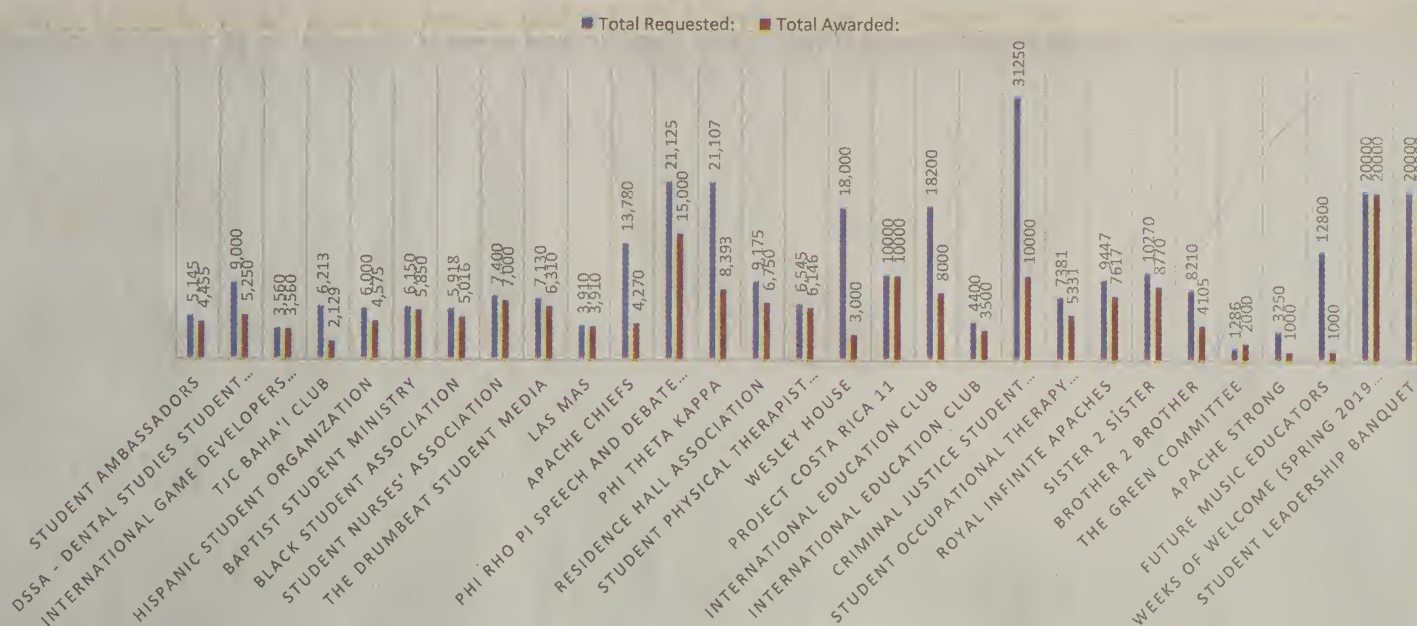
This year's budget was requested in April. Having this early deadline forces organizations to plan their semester events in advance. By planning in advance, they are able to do more and travel in the fall.



PHOTO BY HANNAH HORTON

Where does your money go?

Allocation of Fall SSFAC funds



GRAPHIC BY HANNAH HORTON

Professor by day; Taekwondo master by night

Adam Palacios
Staff Writer

To most, Dr. Dometrius Hill is the Dean of Academic Success and a Math Professor. However, outside of TJC, Dr. Hill and his wife, Christina Hill, spend their time making a difference in the community through Songahm Martial Arts Academy, located in Tyler and Pittsburg.

"I first started Taekwondo as a kid in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. I grew up in a military family and it kept me out of trouble, kept me active, and helped pass the time. I wanted to share that

experience with others," said Dometrius.

Songahm Martial Arts is a place for everyone, regardless of age, ability or needs. "We typically work with students who are developing, but we also work with students who have special needs. We work with students as young as three and have adults taking classes as well," said Christina.

There is more to Taekwondo than learning to fight or learning self-defense. "The students realize a kick is just a kick and a punch just a

— see TAEKWONDO page 4 —



PHOTO BY ADAM PALACIOS

Martial arts power couple Dr. Dometrius and Christina Hill provide community service not only through their day jobs, but also through their two martial arts schools.

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THE DRUMBEAT



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Educate yourself on the issues and vote

Cecilia Kohl
Staff Writer

On campus, we have an estimated 76 percent of students and staff who are registered to vote, based on a Drumbeat survey of 100 students plus staff. There are a 14 percent not registered and 10 percent who do not know or care about politics.

For those who are registered, the midterm elections are fast approaching and will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 6. There are early times for voting, which begin on Oct. 22 and end on Nov. 2. On Nov. 6, the voting hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Only one form of ID is required at polls. Voting can be overwhelming, but taking proper steps in being prepared and knowing candidates

will make it a breeze.

Ted Cruz is running for Senate, and his website states, "Most candidates run on a list of issues, but Ted has always run on his record. That record is consistent, conservative, and clear: Ted Cruz works for Texas."

His opponent is Beto O'Rourke, and his website states "Texans can trust and a senator who is focused on helping the people he's elected to serve."

All must inform themselves on both parties and what they stand for. As Albert Einstein said, "Any fool can know. The point is to understand."

Don't go into the midterms uneducated on who is running in the local races. Educate yourself, bring IDs, and go vote.

"Don't go to the mid-terms uneducated on who is running in the races. Educate yourself, bring IDs, and go vote."

★ ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID: ★

★ Texas Driver License issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)

★ Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS

★ Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS

★ Texas Handgun License issued by DPS

★ The United States Military Identification Card containing the person's photograph

★ The United States Citizenship Certificate containing the person's photograph

★ United States Passport (book or card)



Guest Column



"Being able to just take a break and listen to good music and an epic message is totally worth it."

Visit the BSM on Thursday nights

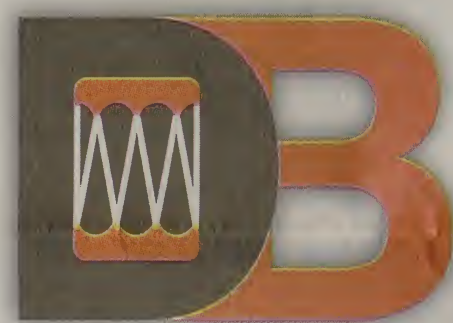
Katie Whiting
Guest Writer

Every college student understands the value of taking some time off and just chilling from the world around them. Personally, I need time to myself away from the craziness of school and work.

For me, coming to Thursday nights at the Baptist Student Ministry is the best way to do that. I get to listen to uplifting music and an inspiring message then have pancakes and bacon! I mean, who can say no to that?

I have made so many friends by coming to the BSM, and I always leave feeling ready to continue on with the week. Jesus is at the core of everything we do and stand for, and He means so much to me. Even when no one else was there for me, Christ was, and He will always be.

Even if socializing with other people is not your thing, being able to just take a break and listen to good music and an epic message is totally worth it. The worship starts at 8 p.m., and pancakes are served after that, which is around 9 p.m. I would love for you to come and hang out with me and some of my amazing friends!



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All letters must include the author's name, address, telephone number and academic classification. Editors reserve the right to deny publication of any letter. Letters should be e-mailed to: news@thedrumbeat.com or brought to P204.

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Michael Seale is TJC's new police chief.

PHOTO BY SYDNI CUNNINGHAM

New police chief plans to revamp policies

Sharae Corbin
News Editor

On Oct. 1, 2018, we welcomed a new police chief, Michael Seale, to our campus.

Seale came from UT Tyler, where he previously served as officer, cadet, lieutenant, and sergeant. Seale has an extensive background with criminal law. He graduated from Northeast Texas Community College with an associate of science in criminal justice, which led him to UT Tyler where he also graduated with a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice.

Along with his educational background, Seale is a member of the Texas Police Association, Texas Police Chief Association, Texas Municipal Police Officer Association, and the Texas System Police Association.

"Everyone has been welcoming since I've been here - the overall environment has been welcoming and friendly," Chief Seale said. One of the first things Chief Seale plans to do is "a complete rewrite of all of our policies and procedures, a lot of

the policies pertaining to the police department are outdated and they need to be revamped to reflect the changes in law enforcement since the last policy rewrite," said Chief Seale. Chief Seale makes it very clear that he doesn't want to "change everything" but instead see "what works and what doesn't."

Furthermore, Seale has two particular policies in mind that he is working on updating. "For example, the Sandra Bland Act was enacted this past legislative session and while it put additional requirements mainly on the jails and mental health, there was a section that dealt with racial profiling and 'bispac' profiling for law enforcement because of that the racial profiling policy and some of the requirements needs to be updated," Chief Seale said.

Also, one of the policies being updated is the "use of force" policy "to make it more applicable to a college setting and also to make sure we're reporting everything properly when it comes to the use of force," Chief Seale said.

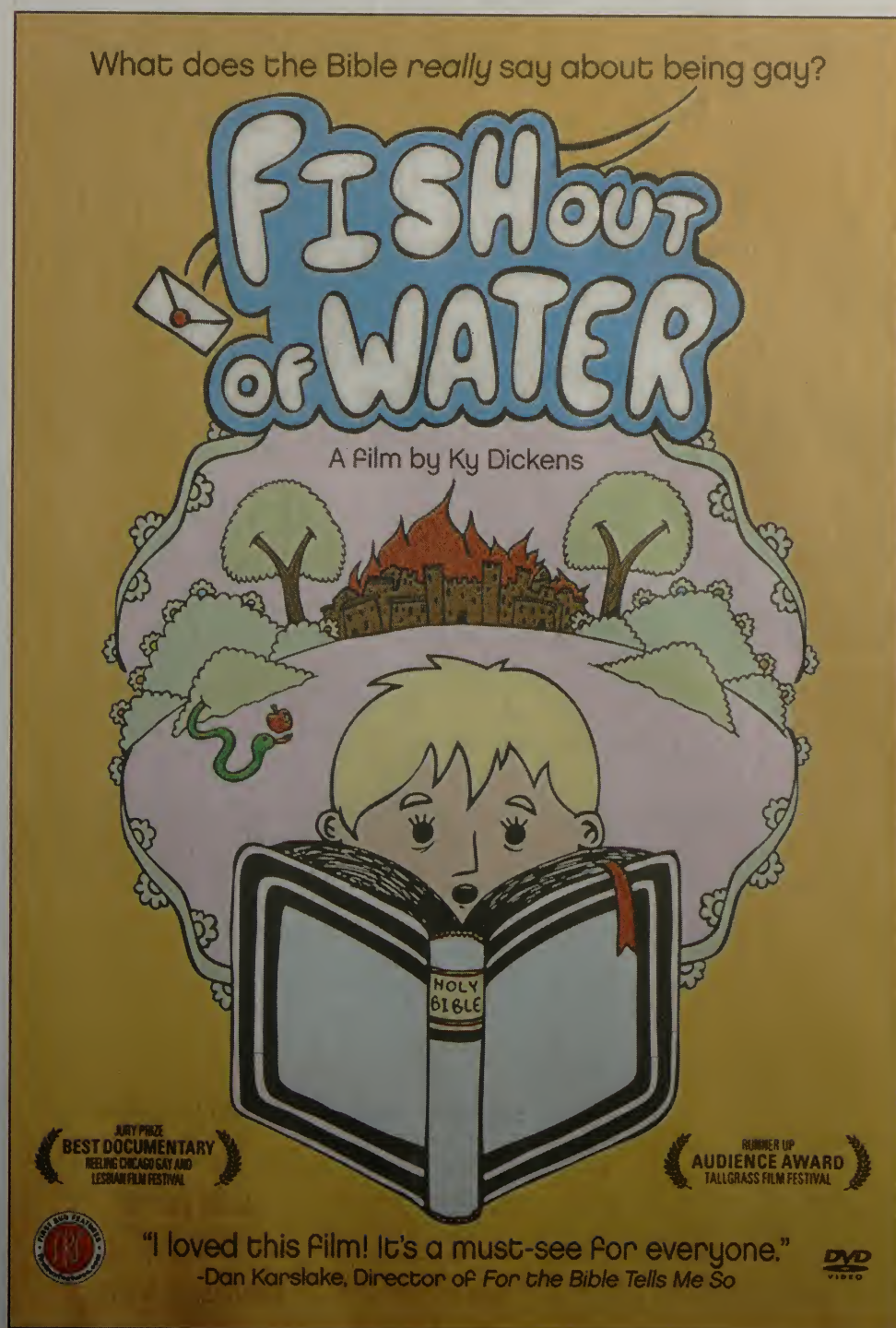
Lastly, Chief Seale has included a "Timely notification" policy which lets an officer know when they're supposed to

notify him when an incident has happened or is about to happen. We have numerous policies and rules on campus but "the use of force and racial profiling - those are the two biggest [policies] that I plan to re-do immediately, sooner rather than later," Chief Seale said.

"If something is working good, what can we do to improve upon that? If something is working good and keeping the campus safe, that doesn't mean that it needs to be abandoned altogether," Chief Seale said.

In addition to safety, Chief Seale wants to have closer ties with the community. "I want to move forward with more community projects. For example, we're planning on doing 'trick-or-treating' with the police on Oct. 31," Chief Seale said.

Besides crime on campus, there are a lot of other issues that can be brought up to campus police about as well. When asked what we can approach campus police about besides crime, Seale replied "Just about anything! Safety and security on campus is my number one goal."



COURTESY: IMDB

DVD cover for the 2009 documentary film "Fish Out of Water"

Members of LGBTQ community host movie viewing, discussion

Maya Gayler
Managing Editor

Guest speakers from the LGBTQ community showed the movie "Fish Out of Water" and held a discussion after in Jenkins 1109 on Oct. 18 at 4 p.m.

The movie "Fish Out of Water" is a documentary about one woman's journey from Christian to lesbian, how she came out to the conservative community around her and how she felt lost because she had no one to understand her. She reviews and breaks down the most used passages from the Bible that are used against homosexuality. Interviews from reverends and members of the LGBTQ community are included to provide perspective and credibility.

Following the movie, there was an open dialogue for those who wanted to ask questions, discuss the movie or any LGBTQ matters. Many members of the audience agreed with the idea of teaching love more than being worried about other people's sins. Tracey Williams, TJC's counselor, said 70 percent of the suicidal students she sees are dealing some kind rejection from family for being gay.

"It seems that people are okay with other people being gay, but when it comes to family it becomes an issue," said Jerry Bailey, member of the LGBTQ community. Bailey talks about his experience as a kid in the 70s seeing the beginning of gay characters on TV, compared to now when we see this everywhere. Bailey also talked about how young teens coming out still need those allies so they never have to become suicidal.

Wyatt Almeida, Samantha (Sam)

Almeida, Madeline Snyder and Ginger Brandt were the panel of guest speakers. Sam gave personal testimony of how she came out to her family. Sam explained how she used the movie to educate her religious parents and ease them into the idea of her being lesbian.

Brandt explained her newly founded denomination within the Christian umbrella. They are called "Disciples of Christ" and are focused on being more accepting of others and teaching the love of Jesus.

Dr. Linda Gary even gave her personal connection to the LGBTQ by telling the story of her gay cousin, who was also a World War II veteran. Gary told the audience how her cousin got caught with his partner one day and his family disowned him. The only one who continued to show him love was his uncle, Gary's father. "My father died when I was 15. At his funeral he [her cousin] came up to my mother and told her that he was grateful for the kindness his uncle always showed," said Gary.

Brandt commented that the kindness of someone outlives anything else.

However, there was one disagreeing member of the audience. A pastor said that he thought the movie was biased in favor of the "gay agenda." He said that he did not agree with homosexuality but was not judgmental of the LGBTQ members there. He felt he needed to defend the Bible. Overall, he was respectful when explaining his opinion. The panel thanked him for being there and contributing to the dialogue.

"The Bible says to love God with all of your heart, mind and soul and love thy neighbor as thyself. And everyone is your neighbor," said Gary.



COURTESY OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE

Apache Soccer during their ring ceremony in Spring 2018

Three straight? Apache Soccer looks to make title run

Nicholas Kenebrew
Sports Editor

TJC's Soccer Program has been built on a winning culture.

The work ethic of this program is well documented.

TJC Men's soccer, who are (47-2) the last two seasons, is coming off a national championship. Ranked No.1 in the NCJAA Division 1 polls, they currently have a record of (15-2). Being (12-1) in conference play.

A national championship is a great achievement for any college program. The title is usually awarded by contests, ranking systems, stature, and ability

"The idea of winning three straight na-

tional championships would be mighty fun," Coach Steve Clements said.

The Apaches soccer team, coached by Clements, will try to make it three straight national titles this season and seven overall.

Clements has led TJC to national championships in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017 and two runners-up spots in 2013 and 2015.

Clements also coached Meridian Community College of Mississippi.

"Although a national championship is a long way off, it would be nice for the team to be put in that position," Clements said.

He really loves his job and with almost two decades down, is still excited about coaching. With that mindset, there are always

players coming in and out, which means recruiting plays a big role.

With about 17 recruits, they strive to be better or just as good as the previous teams. "Pretty much by this part of the season, their kind like sophomores," Clements said.

"Their goals are to try to outdo the last class or keep up with the pace of the last class. This is why they're so goal-oriented," said Clements.

Clements goal is to help these players to do well academically and do well enough on the field that they have the opportunity to go to a four-year school.

Although a national championship is a long way off, it would be nice for the team to be put in that position.

"Just the opportunity to compete for a national title is fun," said Clements.

The team never talks about the rankings, polls or national titles. "We're just trying to win one game at a time," said Clements.

"Right now we're trying to get ourselves in position to do well in conference, the better your opportunities are," said Clements.

This program has been consistent over the last decade. A lot of that has to staff and players. "You have to have good quality players and our staff has done a great job recruiting and putting these teams together," said Clements.

The Men's national soccer tournament is Nov. 12-17 at Daytona State College in Daytona Beach, Florida.

TAEKWONDO

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punch, but the discipline, self-respect and integrity will stick with them for the rest of their lives," said Dometrius.

While there are many benefits of joining Songahm Martial Arts, Christina stresses the importance of one benefit in particular. "We want them to train physically so they can defend themselves and protect other people,

but mainly we want to build them mentally," she said. "I have come to find that as students prove themselves in the dojo and they don't have to prove anything to anyone else."

Classes can be purchased on an individual basis, or memberships are available. "Our main mission is to affect the lives of the students we get, that is why we try to keep the financial barrier very low," said Christina. "If you are interested, we will find a way for you to attend."

A unique way that the couple gives back

is by offering an after-school program for local and elementary school students. "I've been given so much by Taekwondo, and I just want to give that back," said Christina. This program partners with local school districts to provide an afterschool program for parents in need. The Songahm Martial Arts Academy provides transportation from the partner schools to their after-school program. Once there, students are given a snack and the opportunity to complete their homework with one-on-one help. "Education is one of

our primary focuses," said Christian. The afterschool program helps parents and ensures that students are doing well in class. Once students complete their homework, the students being their Taekwondo classes.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Hill believe this is a community effort, and so they are actively accepting volunteers or mentors. Anyone interested in volunteering or mentoring can visit their website www.atasma.com for more information or stop by Dr. Hill's office in the Rogers Student Center.

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TJC

CHIEFS

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implemented," Tyler said.

After that, Jackie France became the advisor. She was there from 2012-2014; then, in the summer of 2015, it was Emily Jefferson. Every year, the Apache Chiefs attend the National Orientation Directors Association conference, which focuses on promoting orientation.

"It's not focused so much on the fun and games like some of the other conferences. While it is entertaining, its primary purpose is educational," Turner said.

Many members of the Apache Chiefs are also involved in various other organizations on campus. Student Senate President Christian Marez, Student Senate Secretary Hannah Lair, and Hispanic Student Organization President Briana Molina are a few members with leadership positions outside of the Apache Chiefs.

The Apache Chiefs also spend a weekend on a team retreat in the spring that is dedicated strictly to bonding as an organization and growing close. They are a highly competitive organization. Once accepted, members are eligible to receive a scholarship after working through the summer.

Over the years, the Apache Chiefs have grown to be stronger than they have ever been before. They continue to be a dominant presence on campus that many students and faculty can turn to for help.





HSO to celebrate Dia de los Muertos

Maya Gayler
Managing Editor

The Hispanic Student Organization will be hosting an event celebrating the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos on Thursday, Nov. 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"The past years we've been doing it on the second floor of Rogers [Student Center] and it was really small... but this year we're going all out and making it a big event with the community as well," said President of HSO Briana Molina.

Dia de los Muertos translates to "Day of the Dead" in English. The holiday is celebrated in Latin American but originated in Mexico. Dia de los Muertos starts Oct. 31 and ends Nov. 2, but TJC will be celebrating on Nov. 1.

Often it is compared to the American holiday of Halloween because of the similar time of year and decorations.

Dia de los Muertos is actually very different from Halloween. It does not celebrate the harvest like Halloween originally did, or scary stories like Halloween today. This holiday is a time for families to remember their loved ones who have died and the life they lived. It is not to mourn death, but to celebrate life.

Families set up altars with food and gifts for the dead family members so that they can enjoy their favorite food in the afterlife. Large parades go through the cities with music playing and people dancing. People dress up as Catrina figures, the fancy skeletons, similar to how we dress up for Halloween.

The decorated sugar skulls that have become popular in the United States are called calaveras. They are given as gifts to the living and the dead. Some families make them to resemble their lost ones' personality.

HSO wants to give TJC and the citizens of Tyler a glimpse of how Mexico celebrates life. There will be a mini parade going through campus from the White Administrative Service Center to Wise Cultural Arts. "At White Administrative, there will an altar honoring all faculty that has passed away. The library altar will be honoring all students that have passed away, and at the last stop will be the biggest altar honoring celebrities, or if anyone wants to remember and honor their family that has passed," said Molina.

Each stop will have information about Dia de los Muertos and free snacks. The first altar will have chips and salsa, the second will have a variety of Mexican appetizers and the last will have a taco food truck for the main course. There will also be live music.

It is free for students, and the community is encouraged to join.

MUST HAVE

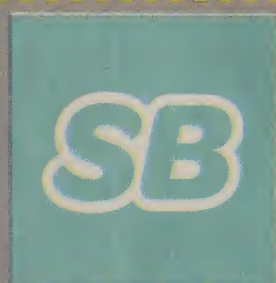
College Apps for College Students



UNIDAYS

This student discount app provides exclusive content, deals, bargains, and advice, and is available in many international versions as well. Besides online deals, UNiDays offers in-store discounts as well as from many aligned brands like Urban Outfitters and Ray-Ban. A half-price Apple Music Student membership is one of the perks that sweetens the deal, in a field crowded with competing student discount apps.

The Student Beans app, which is available on iOS and Android devices, brings all of the Student Beans discounts to your smartphone. Plus, students get a digital student ID and alerts when a new discount from your favorite vendor comes out.



STUDENT BEANS



TUN

The TUN Student Discounts app helps students locate all of the local discounts in their area. More than 13,000 businesses across the US list with TUN, offering exclusive deals. the TUN app reward system lets students earn reward points for free stuff. A real student money saver makes TUN one of the best apps for university students.

UConnection is the app that gives college students exclusive discounts, student-centered reviews of night spots and restaurants, and so much money in savings.



UConnection



GAS BUDDY

GasBuddy is a convenient, free app on App Store and Google Play. Gas Buddy offers not only local prices for whatever area you're in but a trip cost calculator and a heat map to show where the highest gas prices are likely to be. You probably won't find a gas station that offers college student discounts, but it's a real student money saver anyway.

GRAPHIC BY SYDNI CUNNINGHAM



PHOTO BY HANNAH HORTON

Sophomore Laura Clayton reads the 2018 edition of The Bell Tower Arts Journal. The Bell Tower is a campus publication which features creative works by students.

Submissions underway for The Bell Tower Arts Journal

Hannah Horton
Editor-in-Chief

Submissions of prose, poetry, fine art and photography for the 2019 edition of The Bell Tower Arts Journal will be accepted through Nov. 8, 2018.

Each year, The Bell Tower showcases students' creative talents. Copies of The Bell Tower are located on stands throughout campus.

English Professor Regan Minkel, who serves as Editor of The Bell Tower, explained that works published in the journal are selected by a committee of faculty members and students from the English Department, the Visual Communications Department and the Art Department. "It's a blind committee, so we don't know who wrote what. We just look at the pieces and the artwork," Minkel said.

This is Minkel's first year as Editor of the journal. "I love it," said Minkel. "I feel honored that I get an opportunity to work with such creative, wonderful students and such a creative, wonderful faculty. I'm really excited about learning more ... With the release of the 2019

Bell Tower, I think that I'm going to learn a whole lot of things."

Sophomore Laura Clayton was "honored and thrilled" to have her poem, "Words," published in the 2018 Bell Tower. "Writing is my expression of art," she said, "so it was a lot of fun to be able to share that with fellow students and staff at TJC. If you like to write, draw, [or] paint, I highly encourage you to submit something."

"It is such a wonderful thing if you do get published or selected to have on your resume [and] in your own personal bank of experiences as you're applying to colleges and things like that," said Minkel. "I think that would be great, and there's obviously no harm in trying ... The only time you're going to grow is when you're feeling uncomfortable."

Submission forms can be downloaded online at <https://www.tjc.edu/belltower>. Minkel also has printed copies available for students in her office, Jenkins Hall 173. Completed forms may be turned in at the Humanities, Communications and Fine Arts in Jenkins Hall through Nov. 8.



COURTESY: WILL CLARK

Hannah Early, left, and Ellie Hudson onstage at The Venue.



COURTESY: WILL CLARK

Anna Hale, left, and Makenna Cook read a scene from "The Pretentious Young Ladies" by Moliere as a part of Studio 103 Play Reading Series.

Opportunities to perform

TJC Theatre offers The Venue, Studio 103 Play Reading Series

Hannah Horton
Editor-in-Chief

The Theatre Department has more to offer than its main season of three plays and a musical. The Venue and Studio 103 Play Reading Series are two more performance series offered throughout the semester.

The Venue is advertised as "TJC's Original Coffee House." Theatre professor Dr. David Crawford said that it was created as "a late-night Saturday activity to give the kid on campus something to do, that was free and fun." This event, which is held multiple times each semester, enables students to share their artistic talents at Jean Browne Theatre.

"We patterned it after the old-timey beatnik generation coffeehouse, where you had the freedom to be able to share your creativity," said Crawford. "You play the guitar? Play it. You write poetry? Read it. You do stand-up comedy? Stand up. You juggle? Juggle. Dancing, playing instruments – all of these have been done."

To perform at the Venue, you must be a TJC student or have received permission from a faculty member. You can sign up to perform with the master of ceremonies that night.

"There are rules," explained Crawford. "No vulgarity. No food or drink in the theatre. Five minute slots. No proselytizing, preaching [or] selling."

"[The Venue is] a very safe and welcoming environment that allows you to show others anything you can do," said sophomore theatre major Kaitlyn Sullivan. "I actually sang for the first time in front of an audience at the last Venue just because I felt comfortable enough ... Knowing that the audience is full of supportive friends and peers gives you that confidence boost that we all need to get up on stage to perform. It's the best sense of community, and is definitely something everyone should participate in."

Sophomore theatre major Will Clark described The Venue as "a nice, quaint, safe place where anyone can perform."

Students who are not interested in performing at The Venue are welcome to attend as audience members, and can expect snacks and coffee. "A lot of people just want to show up, eat food,

and enjoy," explained Crawford, "and that's what it's for – just to give the students something to do on the weekends."

Studio 103 Play Reading Series is another performing arts series by TJC Theatre.

"What we're looking for in the Theatre Department is for more and more opportunities for the students to perform," said Crawford. "We've got the main stage season – well, that's four [plays]. We've got 70 kids, and they can't all be in four plays. So, what we're looking for is more opportunities. We also have the second stage series. And the second stage series is a shorter piece that is produced in between the major productions ... in between those are studio readings."

During a reading, students perform a play without blocking, costumes, or line memorization. "We'll have chairs where all the actors sit, and when it's their character's time to talk, they'll stand up," Crawford explained. "They have the script, and they read from it. But they're reading dramatically."

Studio 103 readings are usually original plays or plays by lesser-known playwrights. "They're shorter pieces that you don't normally get to see," he said, "and it gives our theatre students another chance to perform, which is why they're here."

"[Studio 103 is] a very fun way to get involved with the theatre department without the stress of memorizing lines, blocking or numerous rehearsals," stated Sullivan. "My favorite part is that every reading I've been involved in has been pretty humorous."

Clark expressed gratitude for having the opportunity to perform in Studio 103. "The Studio 103 readings have come at just the right times in my life," he said. "When I was feeling very low, I was cast in a reading directed by [Director of Theatre Facilities] Bryce McWilliams ... I met my very best friends from that cast. Each reading I've been a part of has helped me in some aspect of my craft."

The Venue and Studio 103 play readings are both free to attend. "All we're looking for is an audience," said Crawford.

The Venue will take place on Oct. 27 and Nov. 10 from 9 p.m. - 11 p.m. in Jean Browne Theatre. Studio 103 play readings of "Midnight Caller" by Horton Foote are scheduled for Oct. 26 and 3 p.m. and Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. in Fine Arts 103.



COURTESY: WILL CLARK

Christopher Flores performs at The Venue.



PHOTO BY SCOTT WITCHER

The TJC choir rehearse under the direction of Dr. Eric Posada for the Fall Choral Concert: Kaleidoscope of Choirs.

“It’s rewarding when you see the students grow through the semester.”

—Dr. Eric Posada,
Director of Choral
Music/Professor

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